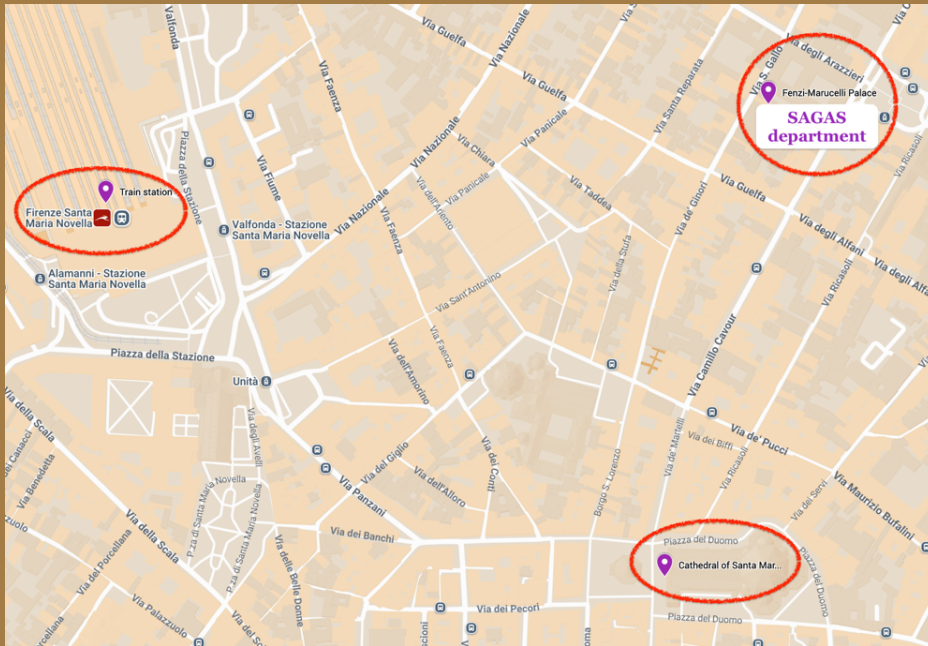


# ARMENIAN AND GEORGIAN WOMEN PATRONS (IX–XIV CENTURIES)

International conference



## ORGANIZATION:

**GOHAR GRIGORYAN** and **ZAROUÏ POGOSSIAN**  
with the collaboration of **IRENE TINTI** and **LAPO SOMIGLI**

## INFORMATION AND CONTACT:

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**24-25 November 2025**

**University of Florence, SAGAS Department**  
Palazzo Fenzi-Marucelli  
Via San Gallo 10, Florence

The final conference of the ERC project ArmEn



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
FIRENZE

**SAGAS**  
DIPARTIMENTO DI STORIA,  
ARCHEOLOGIA, GEOGRAFIA,  
ARTE E SPETTACOLO

## 24 November 2025

### Aula Parva

10:00 Greetings: **FULVIO CERVINI**, Director of the SAGAS Department, University of Florence; **KHAJAG BARSAMIAN**, Pontifical legate of Western Europe and representative of the Armenian Church to the Holy See  
Introduction: **ZAROUÏ POGOSSIAN** and **GOHAR GRIGORYAN**

**Chair: BARBARA ROGHEMA**

10:30 **CHRISTINA MARANCI** (Cambridge, MA)  
*Queen Katranidē and her spiritual offspring*

11:00 **MAIA MATCHAVARIANI** (Tbilisi)  
*Martha-Mariam of Georgia: A queen between empires, texts, and loyalties*

11:30 **MARCO BAIS** (Rome)  
*Two Albanian noblewomen promoters of saints' cults: Queen Šušanik and Princess Hēlinē*

12:00 Lunch

**Chair: MICHELE NUCCIOTTI**

14:00 **JOST GIPPERT** (Hamburg)  
*From conversion to rulership: Women's patronage in Georgia between legend and fact*

14:30 **SARA NUR YILDIZ** (Ankara)  
*From Georgian princess to pious devotee and patron: Gurji Khatun and Mawlana Jalal al-Din Rumi*

15:00 **SUZAN YALMAN** (Istanbul)  
*The agency and patronage of two Seljuk queens: The cases of Mahpari Khatun and Gurji Khatun*

15:30 Coffee/tea break

**Chair: IRENE TINTI**

16:00 **ZAROUÏ POGOSSIAN** (Florence)  
*Women's patronage and politics in Arc'ax and Siwnik' (IX-XIII centuries)*

16:30 **GOHAR GRIGORYAN** (Florence)  
*Does the representation of gender vary if the commissioner is a woman?*

17:00 End

19:00 Dinner

## 25 November 2025

### Aula Parva

09:20 Greetings

**Chair: LAPO SOMIGLI**

09:30 **THAMAR OTKHEZURI** (Tbilisi)  
*Mariam Queen of Kartli – commissioner and “redeemer” of Georgian manuscripts*

10:00 **NATIA NATSVLISHVILI** (Tbilisi)  
*Architectural patronage in the Kingdom of Georgia: Noble female donors and their financial resources*

10:30 Coffee/tea break

**Chair: EDDA VARDANYAN**

11:00 **DAVID ZAKARIAN** (Fresno, CA)  
*Tracing female agency: Women sponsors of medieval Armenian manuscripts*

11:30 **ARMINE MELKONYAN** (Florence)  
*Manuscript production and patronage by childless women*

12:00 **ANNALISA MORASCHI** (Brno, Paris)  
*Four generations of Vach'utian women and their patronage*

12:30 Final discussion

13:00 Lunch

15:00-17:00 ERC ArmEn project meeting (team members only)